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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/186,977	11/05/1998	R. ASHBY ARMISTEAD	2705-39	2499

7590 09/30/2003

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EXAMINER	
CHANG, EDITH M	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2634	7

DATE MAILED: 09/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/186,977	ARMISTEAD, R. ASHBY	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Edith M Yeh	2634	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *25 August 2003* .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-31* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-31* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 19 is objected to because of the following informalities: Line 11 of claim 19, the term "may" is indefinite. It is suggest to omitted it or replace a definite term. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-2, 5-7, & 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bellenger et al. (US Patent 6263016 B1) in view of Oliver et al. (US Patent 6064693).

Regarding **claims 1 & 22**, Bellenger et al. discloses a multiple-modem system and a data communication interface (FIG.4) comprising: a data bus (410 FIG.4); a resource internal state memory (420/430 FIG.4) capable of storing internal state information for an existing data connection (column 13 lines 1-15, 25-40), the internal state information containing data communication information developed by a data-handling resource over the course of the existing data connection (column 13 lines 30-60, wherein the data communication information can be the line status in the activity table, rate of the physical line in the profile table, etc.); first

(424 FIG.4, backup or local DSP) and second (414 FIG.4, line cards or primary DSP) data-handling resources connected to the data bus transformation for one or more data connections, each data-handling resource connected to the resource internal state memory such that internal state information from the first data-handling resource is savable in the resource internal state memory and is retrievable from the resource internal state memory by the second data-handling resource (column 13 lines 30-39, wherein the DSP table has the information of the DSP at line cards, the information of the DSP 424); and a data-handling resource controller (404 FIG.4) that responds to one or more conditions(1326, 1210B/P FIG.13A) indicating that data from a first data connection should no longer be directed to the first resource, by directing the data from the first data connection to the second data-handling resource without loss of connection (1348-1356-1220-1224 FIG.13B, wherein the conditions are idle or end, and the connection directed from the first to the second without loss of connection as indicated in 1348-1358 of 1218A FIG.13B). Bellenger et al. does not implicitly specify the data transformation in the memory, *however* Oliver et al. teaches the memory in the modem to have the frames stored (30 Figure 2, and column 3 lines 12-15 '693, wherein the frame is the data transformation and the frame data can be in the controller memory). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have the data transformation taught by Oliver et al. stored in the DSP table as DSP resource or the information on the last session in the subscriber table in the controller memory, or in the modem memory of 420 FIG.4 of Bellenger et al.'s interface to improve the handling digital data frames with different transmitting and receiving rate (column 2 lines 52-65).

Regarding **claims 2 & 23**, Bellenger et al. discloses the first data-handling resource/modem comprising a first digital signal processor (424 FIG.4), and the second data-handling resource comprises a second digital signal processor (414 FIG.4).

Regarding **claims 5 & 24**, Bellenger et al. discloses the first digital signal processor/modem resides on a first circuit card (402 FIG.4) within the interface, and wherein the second digital signal processor/modem resides on a second circuit card (400A FIG.4) within the interface and sharing a common bus (410 FIG.4) with the first circuit card.

Regarding **claims 6 & 7**, Bellenger et al. discloses the data-handling resource controller resides on a third circuit card within the interface (404 FIG.4), and the resource internal state memory (432 FIG.4) also resides on the third circuit card.

4. Claims 3-4, & 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bellenger et al. (US Patent 6263016 B1) in view of Oliver et al. (US Patent 6064693), further in view of Baum et al. (US Patent 5841842).

Regarding **claim 3**, further Baum et al. discloses the first and second digital signal processors reside on a common circuit card within the interface (FIG.6, column 13 lines 39-45, wherein the four modems are on the a common circuit card/board). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have the first and second digital signal processors residing on a common circuit card taught by Baum et al. to provide a bank of re-configurable modems as a modem pool (column 6 lines 31-34).

Regarding **claim 4**, Bellenger et al. discloses the data-handling resource controller and the resource internal state memory also reside on the common circuit card (404 FIG.4).

Regarding **claim 8**, Bellenger et al. discloses the first data-handling resource and the second data-handling resources (the DSPs of line cards FIG.4, the DSPs of 402 and 602 FIG.4 & 6, column 36 lines 10-14) but does not specify the multiple digital signal processors in one card. *However* Baum et al. teaches a first data-handling resource comprises a first circuit card comprising multiple digital signal processors, and a second data-handling resource comprises a second circuit card comprising multiple digital signal processors (76A & 76B Fig.5, Fig.6). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have Bellenger et al.'s DSPs/modems implemented in the first data-handling resource; and the DSPs/modems in the second data-handling resource as well taught by Baum et al. to provide a bank of re-configurable modems as a modem pool (column 6 lines 31-34).

Regarding **claim 9**, further Baum et al. discloses the first and second circuit cards each comprise a card internal state memory (431 Fig.6, column 13 lines 42-45). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have the memory on each card taught by Baum et al. in Bellenger et al.'s line unit 104A to save internal state information from their respective digital signal processors in their respective card internal state memories, and to provide a band of re-configurable modems as a modem pool (column 6 lines 31-34 '842).

Regarding **claim 10**, inhering the limitations of claim 8, concerning to receiving simultaneous data connections, with Bellenger et al.'s modems implemented in two cards taught by Baum et al. the first data-handling resource and the second data-handling resource can receive multiple simultaneous data connections (Fig.5, Fig.6 '842).

Concerning to transferring all or selected connections, Bellenger et al. discloses the backup data-handling resource can be DSP 402 (FIG.4 '016) and global DSP resource 602 (FIG.6 '016), but Bellenger et al. does not specify the backup resources governing/monitoring which resources. However Richmond et al. teaches a 1:3 redundancy (FIG.3 '286) and Baum et al. teaches the Quad Modem (Fig.5 & Fig.6 '842). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have Bellenger et al.'s backup DSPs implemented in the first and second card respectively taught by Richmond et al. that the second data-handling resource can receive a simultaneous transfer of all connections or selected connections received by the first data-handling resource to the second data-handling resource to have bank of re-configurable redundant modem pool system. (column 1 lines 10-15 '286, column 6 lines 31-34 '842) .

Regarding **claim11**, the same modification of the rejection of claim 10, it has the first data-handling resource can receive multiple simultaneous data connections (Fig.5 & 6, '842), and wherein the second data-handling resource can receive a transfer of selected connections received by the first data-handling resource to the second data-handling resource (FIG.3 '286, Fig.5 '842).

5. Claims 12 & 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bellenger et al. (US Patent 6263016 B1) in view of Oliver et al. (US Patent 6064693), further in view of Entenman (US Patent 4245342).

Regarding **claims 12 & 13**, Bellenger et al. discloses the one of the conditions is idle (i.e. no data, column 3 lines 44-47), but does not explicitly specify it is a failure. *However* Entenman teaches the "no data" is a fault (column 1 lines 45-50 wherein the "data not valid" is categorized

as no data). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have the idle condition of Bellenger et al. comprising the failure condition taught by Entenman to have the redundant system to replace the failure one and not to interrupt the communication (column 1 lines 10-15, Abstract).

6. Claims 14, & 16-17, 19, 21, & 25-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richmond et al. (US Patent 6308286 B1) in view of Thaweethai et al. (US Patent 5546379).

Regarding **claim 14**, Richmond et al. discloses a data communication interface comprising: data bus (26 FIG.1); resource internal state memory capable of storing internal state information for an existing data connection (223d FIG.3, column 5 lines 50-54, column 6 lines 9-15, column 7 lines 50-61), the internal state information containing the data communication information developed by a data-handling resource over the course of the existing data connection, N+ 1 data-handling resources, wherein N > 1 (FIG.3, column 6 lines 53-65, wherein N=3 and N>1), each connected to the data bus, to provide data transformation for ~~one or more~~ data connections, each data-handling resource connected to the resource internal state memory such that internal state information from the first N of the data handling resources is savable in the resource internal state memory and is retrievable from the resource internal state memory by the N+ 1 th data-handling resource (the N+1 th data-handling resource is the spare one 220d FIG.3); and a data-handling resource controller (column 1 lines 44-46, column 2 lines 29-33, column 7 lines 10-20) that responds to one or more conditions indicating that data from a first data connection should no longer be directed to any one of the N first data-handling resources, by directing the data from the first data connection to the N+1 th data-handling resource without

loss of connection (column 1 lines 18-24). *However* Richmond et al. does not specify the data transformation and the resource providing one or more connections explicitly, Thaweethai et al. teaches the data transformation stored in the state memory (PATTERN STOR FIG.5, column 65 lines 46-52) and the data handling resource to provide data for one or more connections (FIG.5 wherein the MODEM connecting to the CONNECTION MEANS for receiving data). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to store the data transformation in the memory of the spare data handling resource, and connect the data handling resource to the connection means through switch 30 to have one or more connection taught by Thaweethai et al. in Richmond et al.'s redundancy switchover systems to provide modem pooling capability (column 1 lines 17-19).

Regarding **claim 16**, Richmond et al. discloses the internal state information from each of the N+1 data-handling resources is savable in the resource internal state memory and retrievable by more than one of the N+1 data-handling resources (FIG.3 where N is 3).

Regarding **claim 17**, Richmond et al. discloses each of the data-handling resources emulates at least one modem (column 1 lines 18-24).

Regarding **claim 19**, Richmond et al. discloses a data communication interface comprising: a data bus (26 FIG.1); a resource internal state memory capable of storing internal state information for an existing data connection (223d FIG.3, column 5 lines 50-54, column 6 lines 9-15, column 7 lines 50-61, via the controller the internal state information is retrievable by any data handling resource), the internal state information containing the data communication information developed by a data-handling resource over the course of the existing data connection N data-handling resources, wherein N > 1 (FIG.3 where N is 4 and >1), each

connected to the data bus transformation for data connections, each data-handling resource connected to the resource internal state memory such that internal state information from each of the data-handling resources is savable in the resource internal state memory and is retrievable from the resource internal state memory by any other of the data-handling resources; and a data-handling resource controller that responds to one or more conditions indicating that data from a first data connection should no longer be directed to one of the N first data-handling resources, by directing the data from the first data connection to another of the N data-handling resources (column 4 lines 8-16) without loss of connection (column 1 lines 18-24). *However* Richmond et al. does not specify the data transformation, the resource providing one or more connections, and all data-handling resources receive data simultaneously explicitly, Thaweethai et al. teaches the data transformation stored in the state memory (PATTERN STOR FIG.5, column 65 lines 46-52); the data handling resource to provide data for one or more connections (FIG.5 wherein the MODEM connecting to the CONNECTION MEANS for receiving data); and all N data-handling resources receive data simultaneously (FIG.5). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to store the data transformation in the memory of the spare data handling resource, and connect the data handling resource to the connection means through switch 30 to have one or more connections and receive data simultaneously, taught by Thaweethai et al. in Richmond et al.'s redundancy switchover systems, to provide modem pooling capability (column 1 lines 17-19).

Regarding **claim 21**, Richmond et al. discloses the data-handling resource controller responds to one or more conditions indicating that data from a first data connection should no longer be directed to any one of N first resources, by directing the data from the first data

connection to any idle data-handling resource (FIG.1/3, FIG.2, column 5 line 60-column 6 line 15, where the spare mode one is the idle one).

Regarding **claims 25-27**, Richmond et al. discloses a modem comprising: an internal state configuration capable of storing internal state information for an active modem connection (123 FIG.2, column 7-10) the internal state information containing the data communication information developed by a data-handling resource over the course of the active modem connection; and an external state-loading/saving subsystem (121 FIG.2) that pre-configures the internal state configuration of the modem for a pre-existing " active modem connection so that the pre-existing data active modem connection can be transferred to the modem from another modem and communicate to an external device which is another modem (column 5 line 63-column 6 line 15 where the subsystem, the micro-processor, does the requirement claimed).

Regarding **claim 28**, Richmond et al. discovers a method of operating a data communication interface comprising multiple data-handling resources to provide data transformation for one or more data connections, the method comprising the steps of: periodically saving internal state information from an active data-handling resource in a location separate from the data-handling resource (column 6 lines 4-7, column 7 lines 61-65, where the polling scheme is implemented to request configuration file to save), the internal state information containing and data communication information developed by a data-handling resource over the course of a data connection; monitoring the active data-handling resource (column 2 lines 57-62) for one or more conditions requiring removal of a data connection from the active data-handling resource; and upon occurrence of a condition requiring removal of a data connection from an active data handling resource, loading internal state information related

to the data connection into a second data-handling resource (column 6 lines 9-15) and transferring the processing of the data connection to the second data-handling resource (column 2 lines 49-65, where the means for controlling the switches transferring the connection). *However* Richmond et al. does not specify the data transformation of the internal state information; and the loading the internal state information of a data-handling resource having excess capacity sufficient to handle the connection. Thaweethai et al. teaches the data transformation stored in the state memory (PATTERN STOR FIG.5, column 65 lines 46-52); and selecting a data-handling resource having excess capacity sufficient to handle the connection (column 1 line 64- column 2 line 3). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to store the data transformation in the memory of the spare data handling resource, and the bandwidth-on-demand apparatus and methods taught by Thaweethai et al. to provide modem pooling capability (column 1 lines 17-19).

Regarding **claim 29**, Richmond et al. discloses the second data-handling resource comprises a redundant resource (20b FIG.1/220d FIG.3 & FIG.2, where the 20b is the redundant resource).

Regarding **claims 30 & 31**, Richmond et al. does not specify the active data-handling resource can receive multiple simultaneous data connections (FIG.3), and distribute the connections to data handling resources having excess capacity. *However* Thaweethai et al. teaches the active data-handling resource can receive multiple simultaneous data connections (CONNECTION MEANS, MODEM 1-n, and the common bus/connection between them in FIG.5) and the selecting a data-handling resource having excess capacity sufficient to handle the connection (column 1 line 64- column 2 line 3). At the time of the invention, it would have been

obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have the multiple data connections taught by Thaweethai et al. in Richmond et al.'s redundancy switchover systems (wherein the 30 FIG.1/230 FIG.3 '286 connected to the common bus '379) and the bandwidth-on-demand apparatus and methods taught by Thaweethai et al., to receiving multiple simultaneous data connections and transferring the processing of each of the multiple data connections to the second data-handling resource; distributing the processing of the multiple data connections to multiple data handling resources having excess capacity to provide modem pooling capability (column 1 lines 17-19 '379).

7. Claims 15 & 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richmond et al. (US Patent 6308286 B1) in view of Thaweethai et al. (US Patent 5546379), further in view of Entenman (US Patent 4245342).

Regarding **claim 15**, further Entenman teaches the N+1 th data-handling resource is only assigned data from the first data connection in response to the conditions (FIG.2, column 1 lines 45-53, column 4 lines 7-11, wherein the left most resource is the first data-handling resource connected to the first data connection). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have the switchover taught by Entenman to have an improved modem control system (column 1 lines 12-15).

Regarding **claim 20**, further Entenman teaches the data-handling resource controller drops the first connection when all functional data-handling resources are busy at the time of occurrence of the one or more conditions (column 4 lines 7-11, wherein when the spared modem is assigned already/busy, the connection is dropped stated in column 3 lines 45-50 & 59-65). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to

have Entenman's redundancy modem control to have an improved automatically operative modem redundancy control apparatus (column 1 lines 10-17).

8. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Richmond et al. (US Patent 6308286 B1) in view of Thaweethai et al. (US Patent 5546379), further in view of Evans et al. (US Patent 6307880 B1).

Regarding **claim 18**, Richmond et al. discloses the satellite modem, but does not specify the voice codec for the modem. *However* Evans et al. teaches a modem with the codec (FIG.3). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have the data-handling resources emulates voice codec to have a voice and data capable modem (Abstract).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edith M Yeh whose telephone number is 703-305-3416. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Chin can be reached on 703-305-4714. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4800.

Edith Yeh
September 22, 2003

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